

The above grid hides the name of a well known Free Radio Personality. Follow the Clues below. We have a copy of the Starboard Laser Cassette, and some paint Chippings from the Communicator as prizes.

1. Sealand's Monarch. (3,5)
2. First with the News which has been printed. (8,4)
3. Originally at the dawn of Radio in Shropshire. (6,7)
4. Laser's New Musical Promise (3,4)
5. The World Service.(5,8)
6. Shortwave station with a heart of Gold. (5,9)
7. Could this station have been operated by a friend of Dangermouse! (5,7)
8. In London this station could be everybody's favourite (7,6)
9. Can you hear this German Publication Drop ? (3,8)
10. Long Standing member of the Radio Monique team. (2,7)
11. Delmare Relay with a sting in its tale. (5,7)
12. Offshore Auctioneers. (2,7)
13. Will this London station rise from the Ashes ? (5,7)

Send your completed entry by January 20th

## ...and finally

In the light of our Comments about Nick Berry's recent single being missing from the Caroline 558 playlist Mark Matthews, said on his October 28th programme that the reason why the record was not being played was that it wasn't any good. He invited listeners to write in supporting this, and if enough letters in favour were received he would personally smash the record live on air. Mark can be assured that he has our full support.

Peter Streames/Rivers the station Co-ordinator at Radio Jackie is reportedly being considered by the Conservative Party to try and capture the 'Youth Vote', in the run up to the next election. Ironical since the DTP and before that the GPO spent many years trying to close the station down. Could this be the first major move to capture the Youth Vote since RNI.

WAVELENGTH 14 is out in Mid February, Send your contributions to us by January 27th, 1987 - Happy New Year.

# wavelength.

PO Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

## LASER IS BACK

On November 5th, 1986 at around 12.20 Laser 558 ceased broadcasting from the m.v. Communicator, the next day, escorted by the Government Survey vessel Gardline Tracker the Ship Sailed into Harwich harbour. Now from an anchorage near to where she first transmitted Laser is back. Here we detail the recent events leading up to the relaunch of what is arguably the most popular Offshore Radio station since the 1960s.

### CUSTOMS RETURN PARTS.

On October 24th Customs Officials returned the two bearings they had taken from the Driveshaft of the Communicator to prevent her from sailing. As reported in Wavelength 12 the ship had broken from her moorings on October 22nd and being unable to move under her own power had narrowly missed the Cambridge Ferry. The next move came November 10th when a Panamanian inspector went aboard to check the vessel. Following this The Department of Transport was able to declare the Communicator seaworthy once more. At this stage owner Ray Anderson, who had purchased the ship for East Anglian Productions said that the Ship would be heading for Gibraltar to meet with her new owners.

### DESTINATION UNKNOWN.

The Communicator sailed on Sunday November 16th, but straight away it became obvious that something more was happening than a rendezvous in Gibraltar. Having left Parkeston Quay near Harwich the Ship was reported by Harwich Harbour officials to be heading North, with dry Dock at South Shields being mentioned as a possible destination.

### THE HOMECOMING.

On November 19th the Communicator was back, close to her original position. The only thing to be done now was to wait, and that included the Department of Trade and Industry, who had reportedly spent £50,000 a month during the 'Eurosiege' operation to silence the Offshore stations.

They made it plain that the situation was being watched most carefully. WAVELENGTH received unconfirmed reports that test transmissions had been made on 531 KHz with Beatles Music and excerpts from former Offshore Radio stations.

### TEST TRANSMISSIONS.

The first test transmissions we noted were on 576KHz on December 1st at 1920, with appropriately Genesis - Turn It on again, this non stop music continued, with occasional breaks until just before 2000 when a test tone appeared. After another pause we began to hear some very familiar sounds. Offshore Radio jingles were noted starting with Radio Veronica, Swinging Radio England, Radio London, Caroline, Radio Nordsee and finally Laser 558. Following this we heard the familiar Laser -bolt jingle and the Deep Voice of Bill Mitchell announced 'Laser is Back'. Non stop music continued through until 2100 when John 'Rock and Roll' Anthony introduced himself to us and programmed through the night.

On November 2nd tests continued for most of the day with John Anthony once again taking early and late shifts. He was at this point the only DJ on board. The station went off the air during the afternoon, and unconfirmed reports say that she went alongside the Ross Revenge, Caroline and Monique were also both off the air at this time. On land both BBC and ILR stations were condemning the lack of action by the authorities Suffolk Group Radio, which comprises of Radio Orwell and Saxon Radio said that they did not see the station as



# WAVELENGTH

## Editorial

Last year at this time we said Goodbye to Laser. Now we are pleased to welcome the station back into our homes and our lives - We wish them well.

A few changes to WAVELENGTH start this issue, we welcome Paul Watson as a full time member of the team. Paul will be editing the Short Wave News section, and naturally he would like your contributions for this section. This gives some more time to myself which I shall be using to expand the magazine slightly, and include some extra features. As a result of this, and the October increase in Postal Charges in this country we are sadly increasing Subscriptions. The intention of Wavelength is not to make a profit - We don't, but obviously we do need to break even!

May I wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

God Bless

Adrian

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Years Subscription (6 Issues)

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Europe and Ireland : £4.30/18 IRCs

Rest of the World : £4.90/20 IRCs

Single Copies

United Kingdom: 50p and a Stamped Addressed envelope.

Europe, Ireland and the Rest of the World 3 IRCs.

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### LASER'S ADDRESS:

Suite 3600, 515 Madison Avenue New York, New York, NY 10022 USA

For Requests, Dedications Offers, etc.

Po Box 161333, Irving Texas, 75016, USA  
For Advertising

a threat. At the newly opened BBC Essex station Manager said that the two stations catered for completely different markets. Anglia Television Late News reported the following.

"A Year ago the m.v. Communicator limped into Harwich escorted by a Department of Trade surveillance vessel. Today the Department said they would again launch a blockade to force the Pop Pirate off air. A spokesman for Laser said it would simply be a waste of taxpayers money. The Ship will stay out in International Waters and no laws will be broken and the ship and crew will be supplied from the Continent"

On December 3rd at just before 2200 we heard the familiar voice of John Lewis, announcing the current sea conditions. John has not been heard on any programmes, but continued on test transmissions during the rest of the evening and the next day. John was originally involved with Laser in the earlier Helium Ballon tests on 729KHz. Also on board is Michael Barrington, former engineer with Caroline.

On Saturday 4th tests ceased during the early morning, but returned at around Noon with more continuous music, but with some pauses in between. At 14.40 we heard the return of Paul Dean, Paul who lives in Norfolk had been with the station in the summer of 1984 when the station began on 558. He was followed at 1700 by Andrew Turner who had previously worked on the BBC Radio One magazine - Newsbeat. We believe that Andrew may be the first presenter to go from the National Network to the North Sea since Duncan Johnson joined RNI in the early seventies. Andrew made the headlines a few years ago when Mike Read described him as the country's most ugliest Newswriter. At 2000 it was back to the states as K.C. presented his first programme in a very relaxed style. At 2200 it was a complete contrast with more from John Anthony for one hour when Andrew Turner returned.

The East Anglian Daily Times of Ipswich gave us some background to the relaunch of Laser. They had spoken to the Vice President of 'Radio Waves Incorporated' which had been set up to market, and sell airtime on Laser. He said that the station was currently operating on only 20% of normal power with full power promised for Sunday or Monday. The signal was already stronger than Caroline on 558, although the audio has been described as being somewhat unusual. In his interview Robbie Day said that the station was very heavily backed.

As for ownership we understand there is once again an Irish Involvement in Laser. With a well known Irish Businessman and Broadcaster at the helm.

### THE OPENING: DECEMBER 7th, 1986

The station opened at 0600 with Paul Dean followed at 10.00 by David Lee Stone, returning to the station, but alas only on tape with a Mowtown Special at 1200 it was K.C. and at 1400 John Anthony starting with an hour long Elvis Special at 1800 Andrew Turner through until Closedown at 2200, which was made early to allow engineering work to continue. The closing announcement was made apparently live by John Lewis who played the station's old closing theme:- Thankyou for the Music, by Abba. We noted the News at 0900, and every three hours after that, read by Andrew Turner. The bulletins are actually read just before the hour and last for approximately one minute with a constant backing track.

Advertisements were plentiful with many direct mail offers for the listener. We heard Sunday Sports, the controversial 'Newspaper' which mixes sport with sex and scandal. Advertisements for the public -ation were banned by the IBA. The Laser advertisement was aired as a passing comment by the on air DJ. Also heard was a record - Hit Mix '86, which when obtained direct from Laser has two free Laser Car stickers, Another Record featuring the music of Mowtown, Susan Lindsey designer pull-overs, Colour or should we say Color Posters of selected pop stars, The Pop Directory Music Master, Jigsaw Puzzles, American Football Catalogues, Baseball Caps Sking Holidays and the Communicator Club. The club now costs £10 to join and members receive a Laser Poster of the Communicator together with four magazines a year. The Laser Roadshow was also promoted the first to be held on Thursday at the Affair Club, Culver Street East, Colchester. An air competition was held with 100 Pop Trivia games to be given away as prizes.

The station has continued with its former Hit Music policy. We are not sure of the exact format at this stage but turn-over time for current Hits is about three hours, this may well alter as more material reaches the ship. The station which IDs as Laser Hot Hits- continues with the familiar Laser blasts and some non custom Jingles, together with Bill Mitchell Deep Voice Overs.

Also heard have been Anti Drugs Promotions, the station plans similar campaigns for AIDS and Drink Driving.

Monday brought us K.C. at 5am followed at 0900 by Paul Dean, 1300 John Anthony, 1700 Andrew Turner, 1900 Paul Dean. Closedown was again at 2200 and News was aired Hourly.

# OFFSHORE

## DIARY

October 20th, 1986.

Andy Johnston's voice was heard on a new commercial for the final Brighton Records Fair of the year.

November 1, 1986

Rough Seas in the Knock Deep of the North Sea meant that the Ross Revenge failed to get any tenders for several days. When the Lotto numbers were read following the News Bulletins there was only one set of numbers instead of the usual two draws. The line up remained the same as detailed in Wavelength 12.

November 4th

A Tender finally reached the Ship, Breakfast DJ Dave Owen was replaced by Kevin Turner. Tony Peters also left the ship and this brought John Dwyer back to Daytime programming. Caroline Martin was also back on board taking up the night-time shift at 0100. The single set of Lotto numbers remained.

November 5th

On waking up we were surprised to hear Mark Matthews presenting the Breakfast Show, and listening through the day it became apparent that Kevin Turner was no longer on the ship. The Lotto numbers now featured two separate draws once more. The November 17th edition of Now Radio Newsletter reports that Kevin left the ship as a result of the bad conditions which staff are currently having to endure. With the rearranged programmes the 558 schedule looked like this

0500 Mark Matthews  
0900 Peter Phillips  
1300 John Dwyer  
1700 Jamie King  
2100 Jenny McKenzie  
0100 Caroline Martin.

On Overdrive Mark Matthews continued to host from the start at 21.30 weekdays, 2100 Weekends in addition to his Breakfast Shows. John Tyler then took over at 00.00 until closedown at 02.00 The early closedowns on both channels have enabled Engineer Peter Chicago to carry out more maintenance work on the transmitters,

November 6th.

A New Lotto 649 Commercial with the phrase 'You'd look good as a millionaire' and a Rock backing track.

November 11th.

Mark Matthews failed in his attempt to bring us Australian Lessons. Apparently



a Telex had been received from the New York Office stating that a Court Injunction had been taken out by a Kangaroo call -ed Bruce. A new recording of the P.D. Brown autosales commercial was now aired. A Slight variation in the schedule was noted with John Dwyer at 0900, followed by Peter Phillips at 1300. On Overdrive John Tyler presented from 2100 until the usual Monay Closedown at Midnight.

November 17th.

Overdrive featured an interview with Ian Dury at 2200, with a promise that they would be repeating the popular Spin Magazine concerts first broadcast earlier in the year commencing the following Sunday with Green On Red

November 18, 1986.

Radio Monique have had some problems with their broadcasts with an apparant DJ Strike. On this date non stop music was broadcast for most of the day and no news bulletins were aired. The following day had no transmissions from the station whatsoever until the early evening when non stop music lead up to the start of the Religious Viewpoint 963 programmes at 1800. The situation continued for much of the week on Saturday morning Overdrive's John Tyler made a brave attempt at commencing the Monique early show according to a report by Anoraks U.K.

November 22nd.

Caroline Martin presented from 2100, Jenny McKenzie has not been heard since, and it is assumed she has left the ship for the time being.

November 24th

A New advertisement was noted for advert -isers Rainbow International promoting their Christmas Offers and Leisure Services. A recorded promotion advertised the Caroline Rock Show due to be held at the Plough and Harrow, Leytonstone, London.

November 25th.

Radio Monique programmes returned to a state of normality.

November 27th

Once again rough seas hampered staff on the Ross Revenge, however a tender managed to get out for today with Peter Phillips and Jamie King being replaced by Dave James and Richard Jackson respectively. In addition Keith Lewis joined the station. Close down however was still at 0200. The Schedule

0500 Mark Matthews  
0900 Dave James  
1300 John Dwyer

1700 Richard Jackson  
2100 Caroline Martin  
0100 Keith Lewis

On Overdrive John Tyler began presenting the entire sequence, although Mark Matthews did do some taped shows for the weekend.

November 29th

Two new advertisements were noted for new advertiser Bose Loudspeakers, featuring the voices of Fergie McNeill and Simon Barrett. Bose already advertise on Monique and have previously advertised on Laser.

TECHNICAL POINTS:

AM Stereo

The Nannel project continues although not much is happening at the present time WFRL Tender Trip reports that there are both Dutch and American groups interested in injecting money into the project.

Whilst on the subject of the Nannel, which readers will recall originally planned AM Stereo, Paul A Rusling has given WAVELENGTH some details. AM transmitters can all be made stereo, what is done is the actual exciter (oscillator) is changed, and some PA tube conditions are varied. The BT50 G on board the Nannel could operate Stereo if the exciter were changed, and some other circuitry improved, however this is not likely to happen.

ROSS REVENGE.

Corrosion thought to be affecting the aerial mast is not as widespread as first thought and it appears that 2 support arms for the lower sections of the mast had only been welded on one side. The Guylines have been replaced, along with the aerial insulators.

The Portside transmitter, which has been rebuilt with parts taken from the South Coast Radio transmitter purchased some time ago, however this has suffered some operational difficulties with only Peter Chicago being able to work it fully. Following the recent tests by Radio Finland plans are now being considered to move the 963 service to another channel. With the Finnish station working 963 it would be difficult to receive the output from the Ross Revenge outside of the immediate area.

The station closed down on both 558 and 963 on December 6th at 0930 for 'Essential Aerial Maintenance', which could only be carried out during calm seas. The station remained off for the remainder of the day. The channels closed again on December 7th sometime after 1200.

# ON THE BANDS

## Short Wave News

PAUL WATSON, 7 ONSLOW ROAD  
GUILDFORD, SURREY, GU1 4HU

RADIO APOLLO made a very welcome return to 48 metres on November 30th using 6293. Besides music there were the usual competitions and Free Radio News. The station hopes to be able to broadcast regularly from February. Apollo suffered some interference from RADIO SOVEREIGN 2 kHz away.

(1)  
ATLANTA RADIO made another of their occasional transmissions on October 19th using 6290. Their 'Sounds from the Seas' featured Crispian St. John on RNI, Caroline BBC Radio Brighton and Atlantis. The Operator Mark Stafford, announced this was likely to be the last transmission for some time, although the station has had almost as many comebacks as Gary Glitter. The Atlanta Radio Story cassette is still available from their mailing address (1) priced £2.

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL (1) made a couple of test transmissions during October using 6230. Notably on October 26th, but have not been heard since.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL (1) continue with their regular 1st Sunday transmissions on 6230, but on November 16th they made a special transmission when Norman Nelson was heard to criticise stations that are only relayed, Qstations in the 48 metre band and stations getting too close to the official broadcast band. RECC's free Radio Show Remains one of the best on shortwave.

RADIO 48 were heard on 6290 on October 26th with a fairish signal (2).

FMTR broadcast regularly on 6320 and have been announcing 6370 in parallel although nothing's been logged for this channel (3).

RADIO GEMINI celebrated their 14th birthday with a transmission on November 9th using 6220 (4)

RADIO KALEIDOSCOPE was heard on 6240 on November 16th, with a moderate signal. This was the day RAINBOW wasn't on and the channel was clear. Anyone know anymore about this one? (5)


RADIO KRISTEL have been more active on Short Wave since the demise of their medium Wave sister station SOUTH EAST SOUNDS. They have been heard on 6220 on October 19th and November 30th, and had a 'phone line open. (6)

RADIO LYNDA (7) have been logged on October 12th and November 30th using 6275, although for the latter broadcast it was more like 6272. The station was very active a few years ago and is now part of a new network, which also includes RADIO OMEGA and RADIO STELLA.

RADIO MONGOOSE has been heard recently on the strange frequency of 6815, where they relay RADIO PAMELA from their medium wave outlet, they also have CSOs and play music (8).

RADIO OMEGA were noted once more on November 2nd then again on November 16th on 6275 announcing that they would broadcast monthly (7)

RADIO ORION remain the most active station on 48 metres - broadcasting daily on 6240, although a move to 6280 is planned. On Sundays they use 6266 having abandoned 6200 on November 9th due to co-channel interference from RADIO TIRANA in ALBANIA. The station had opened an evening service on 3463 with Mike Wilson from the station reporting good results with this. They have



**QSL**

TO: ADRIAN COOKE.

DATE: 16-11-86

TIME: 12.25 GMT.

QRG: 6815 kHz = 44mc

POWER: 10 watts

ANTENNA: 70ft Longwire.

73. Steve Mott.

P.O. BOX 220342, 5600 WUPPERTAL 22 W. GERMANY



relayed 4FWS while John England has done station promos for them. Orion's address(9) while 4FWS (10).

RADIO PAMELA(11) have been using out of band frequencies like 6525 and 6815 during November, with a parallel service to Kent on 6815. Steve Most has announced that the station plans to start daily transmissions soon. A planned frequency change to 6741 to avoid QRM on their current Shortwave channel.

RADIO STELLA were heard on 6275 on October 26th. (7).

RADIO SOVEREIGN(12) have settled on 6295 for their weekly broadcasts but are not so easy to hear as they only run 5 watts but do hope to up it to 30 to 50W. A recent recruit to the station is SPECTRUM WORLD BROADCASTING'S Bob Earle. They add that they are nothing to do with the former Twickenham Medium Wave station of the same name, but they do play oldies.

WPRL(1) continue with their 2nd Sunday broadcasts on 6300, although their November transmission suffered a slight hetrodyne from RADIO NOVA (HOLLAND) 3kHz away. The broadcast also included a repeat of the STARBOARD SOUND Laser special, first broadcast a year to the day.

WMR have been fairly active of late noted on various 48 metre band channels (13).

#### IRELAND.

FALCON RADIO(14) have been relayed by the INTERNATIONAL RADIO RELAY SERVICE on 6830, coming in reasonably well here in South-East England. IRRS has also relayed FRS HOLLAND'S programmes (15).

RADIO IRELAND continue regularly on 6310 with a Dutch Programme, and the Two Tonys. On November 23rd they were out in the Radio Ireland Helicopter for a tour of Dublin. They have also given an airborne guide to the City's Radio stations. They plan to relay the Energy 103 Breakfast Show with Gareth O'Callaghan during the week.(16)

PREMIER RADIO were heard on 6216 on October 19th, with a very faint signal.

RADIO RAINBOW have been running low power recently for their Sunday programmes on 6240. On November 2nd they said that they were running 100 watts, and were off on November 16th, apart from a test from a new transmitter which they returned to the air with the following week. (17).

RIVERSIDE RADIO have been noted on 6525 recently (18) including relays of ABC RADIO from Waterford and RADIO PAMELA.

SHAMROCK RADIO were heard on November 9th with a weak signal.

RADIO SKYWAVE are back on 6260 having tried 6265 while ORION who normally use this channel were on 6200.(14) From October 12th they relayed religious station

GOOD NEWS RADIO (14) while on November 2nd relayed RADIO SOUNDS INTERNATIONAL (19)

WESTSIDE RADIO continue every Sunday on 6280 (20).

#### EUROPE.

RADIO BRIDGETTE (21) from Belgium continue with occasional programmes.

CANZONI RADIO RELAY SERVICE(22) were heard on November 16th relaying KIWI RADIO from New Zealand (23) Unfortunately because they chose 6282 they were well splattered by WESTSIDE 2kHz away.

RADIO D.P.I. were noted on 7320 November 9th. (24)

RADIO DELMARE(25) continues with its relays and own programmes every weekend on 6206. These have included: RADIO CLOG (26) FREE RADIO COMPANY, FRS HOLLAND, RADIO HOL-IDAY(19), RADIO LIMIT (19), RADIO LIBERTY SOUND, RADIO MARAËU(19) RADIO PAMELA, RADIO POGO(19) RADIO SCORPIO, SUNRISE RADIO (15) and RADIO TITANIC(15) The vast majority of these are from West Germany.

RADIO DUTCHBOY were very active in late October/Early November. They used both 6275 and 6292kHz. On Sunday the 16th November they were noted at 11.14 on 6220 (35)

RADIO MALTA was noted on 48 metres by Podney R.Sixe, but no address is known. It is thought to be Dutch.

RADIO NEPTUNE from Holland was first noted on October 5th using 6310. They have also been heard on 6300 and 6240.(27).

RADIO NORMAAL were heard on November 8th on 6525.

RADIO NOVA were heard on 6925 on October 4th and 6298 on November 2nd,

RADIO PACMAN was heard on November 9th on 7320. The station claims to use a power of 60 watts coupled to an inverted 'V' antenna. It is operated by the same man behind the late RADIO HOTEL AMIGO.(29).

P.F.B.S. broadcast on November 9th on 6290. They don't seem to be as active as they used to - or perhaps their signal is not getting out. (15).

RADIO MIRAGE (30) from Norway was heard with a tremendous signal on November 23rd using 6290. They also relayed RAINBOW RADIO from Germany (31) which has nothing to do with the Irish station of the same name.

RADIO MISTER SANDMAN(Where do they get these names from?) was noted on 6220 on November 9th(32). They were testing with a claimed power of 500 watts, but it could have been RADIO TONAIR under another name, as they too use this address and were heard on this channel.

RADIO 101 (33) continue to be heard on 7357 with occasional relays of THE MIGHTY FBC(31).

SUD WEST RADIO (34) was heard on October 26th and November 9th with a good signal on 6230. Are they anything to do with SWR who broadcast from Germany a few years ago?

RADIO TITANIC celebrated their 11th birthday on November 9th with programmes via Delmare and on 6275 with AFOLLO's Dave Scott.

RADIO TORENVALK was heard on 6815 via RADIO PAMELA on November 9th.(32)

RADIO VENTURA was heard on October 26th on 6202 but no address heard.

#### UNIDENTIFIED FREE RADIO STATIONS:

This month's UFRS's include a station heard on 6275 on October 19th playing tapes of WROI 98.5 and a station, possibly Dutch heard on October 5th on 6280, or another heard via RIVERSIDE on 6306 on the same day - possibly German. On Saturday November 15th Bradley Allen heard a relay of Caroline 558 from 11.30 on 6268. Any idea welcome to the address at the top of the column.

#### ADDRESS BOOK:

1. PO Box 5, HUNSTANTON, Norfolk, PE36 5AU, England.
2. Postbus 19074, 3501DB, UTRECHT, The Netherlands.
3. PO BOX SH9, SHEERNESS, Kent, ME12 1AQ England.
4. 10 Apsley Grange, London Road, APSLEY, Herts, England.
5. 71 St. George Street, LONDON, England.
6. 514 Brighton Road, CROYDON, Surrey, England.
7. 32 Victoria Road, SALISBURY, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG, England.
8. Flat 'A' 129B Milton Road, GRAVESEND, Kent, England.
9. 82B Edgewood Road, Rednall, BIRMINGHAM, B45 8SG, England.
10. PO BOX 255, Venus, TEXAS, 76084, USA.
11. 3 Rosewarne Cottages, Rosewarne Downs, CAMBORNE, Cornwall, TR14 0BE, England.
12. EM Nectar. LONDON WC1N 3XX, England. + R.S Only on Envelopes.
13. 42 Arran Close, CAMBRIDGE, England.
14. PO BOX 1686, Dublin 1, Ireland.
15. Postbus 41, 7700AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.
16. 10 North Richmond Street, Dublin 1, Eire.

17. 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, Eire.
18. PO Box 59, Waterford, Eire.
19. Postfach 220342, D5600 WUPERTAL, West Germany.
20. 310 Collins Avenue West, DUBLIN, Eire.
21. Postbus 10, 7954ZG, Rouveen, The Netherlands.  
+ Do Not put the station name on the Envelope, but address to Bridgette Van Gelder.
22. Postfach 1225, D-4534 DATTELN, West Germany.
23. PO Box 1437, HASTINGS, New Zealand.
24. Postbus 41, 8080AA, Elburg, The Netherlands.
25. Postbus 36, B-2050, Antwerp, Belgium.
26. Postfach 540101, D-4100 Duisberg, WEST GERMANY.  
+ Do not put the station name on the envelope, address to W. Meyer.
27. Postbus 185, Heerde, The Netherlands.
28. Postbus 5, B-2638 REETE, Belgium.
29. JLV 2 Rue du Vieux-Moulin, 62630, ETAPLES, France.
30. PO Box 2778, Elverhøy, N-9001 Tromsø, Norway.
31. Postbus 725, 6800AS, ARNHAM, The Netherlands.
32. Postbus 36, 7010AA, Gaanderen, The Netherlands.
33. Postbus 2, B-4680 GEMMENICH, Belgium
34. Postfach 1471, D-6690 St WENDEL, West Germany.
35. Postbus 87, 7710AB Nieuwleusen, The Netherlands.

If you are involved in a Free Radio station or just Monitor the stations your reports are equally welcome. You can send your News to either Hunstanton or Guildford.

That ends my first attempt at putting together the Short Wave section. My thanks to PODNEY R. SIXE, ALLEN DEAN and BRADLEY ALLEN for their contributions. I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year. Until then have a happy Christmas.



# MEDIUM+FM

## LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST.

London's major Soul stations, LWR-92.5FM TKO-90.9FM and STARPOINT RADIO-94.3FM are back broadcasting 24 hours once again, this is due to the lack of DTI activity in the capital, because of this, a new station, Time FM-103.7FM in Stereo has also joined the Soul station list broadcasting 7 days a week. Some of the stations have stopped doing live broadcasts and introduced taped programmes, this is done using a Multi-play cassette system, which can take up to six tapes at a time, and even play both sides of the cassettes. The only problem with this has been that some of the tapes have been loaded into the machine in the wrong order. I was listening to TKO the other night, and the DJ was telling me it was the middle of the afternoon. Let's hope they can get there acts together and load the tapes in the right order.

KISS 94FM have started selling station merchandise- T-Shirts, Car Stickers, Baseball caps and even knickers! All with KISS FM printed all over them. The station itself is going from good to better, with lots of new commercials aired every week-end.

The much hyped WBLS-88.5FM, did make it on the air on November 7th, 1986, but I could not pick up the signal here in the South East of the City. The station owners tell us that 34 of London's best underground DJs have joined the station, this has not helped them much, as after only 3 days, they lost their aerial. Reports say that the signal was lousy anyway.

WONE-94.5FM are a new station broadcasting from the Romford area in Essex. The station is on the air every Sunday Evening for around 2 hours.

LGR-LONDON GREEK RADIO -105FM are still going strong in North London, with quite a good signal over the City, 18 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Andy Walker,  
November 23, 1986.

"BANDITS STEAL PIRATE RADIO" is the headline from the Buckinghamshire Free Paper, The Star, sent to us by Steve Gee, it continues.

"Saboteurs have wrecked pirates' plans to launch an illegal radio station in South Bucks. South Bucks Radio was to be broadcast on Saturday nights on 90FM, but their equipment was stolen after just one successful airing. Setting up a Radio station without a licence is illegal but members of South Bucks Radio planned to broadcast from a secret location in West London. One of the members told the Star the scheme was launched because of frustration that there was no local Radio station for High Wycombe.

The member said: 'Chiltern, Oxford, Capital and Radio 210 are all on the edge and we wanted a truly local Radio.'

Technical problems frustrated their first attempts and last Saturday they had their equipment stolen -while it was broadcast. The pre-recorded tapes and aerial had been left at an outdoor location broadcasting to South Bucks, but when the pirates returned the equipment had gone. South Bucks Radio hope to replace the equipment in time for a live broadcast at Christmas."

November 21st, 1986

-We were wondering if the DTI had anything to do with the 'theft'- Adrian.

## MERSEYSIDE AND THE NORTH WEST.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES on 1242 are still operating each Saturday, Sunday and Monday from around 0800. In recent weeks the station has moved away slightly from the Disco influences in so many of the programmes.

RADIO VERONICA on 104.7 have ceased full programming following a recent incident. The last full broadcast was made on November 16th. The following Tuesday (November 18th) some men arrived at the transmission site stating that if the broadcasts continued a search warrant would be used to enter the premises. The station has since made brief appearances with low power asking for anyone with a suitable transmitter site to contact them. With the occupier of the current site reluctant to have the station use his property there is no definite date for a full return.

CONCEPT RADIO operates on Sundays on 104.3

CENTRAL RADIO operates on Saturdays and Sundays on 1404, commencing at around 1000. The station had some difficulties on November 23rd, and as a result had to close early at 1400. They were however back the following weekend with a good strong signal.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO are planning to make a return shortly, with their own programming and relays of Radio Veronica.

with thanks to  
Allen Dean and Neil Frazer.

## SHROPSHIRE

SUNSHINE RADIO in LUDLOW were raided on September 28th, and it is doubtful whether they will return.

# Four Go Mad In Ireland

Steve West and friends on location in the Emerald Isle.

Saturday September 27th:- At last! After four years of talking about it and getting nowhere I've finally got around to getting over to Ireland, that free radio paradise. Jack Russell, Luis Nieto, John Dean and myself arrived at Larne intent on spending the next week visiting hundreds of stations and being overwhelmed by the sight of large grey boxes, towering masts, sophisticated studios etc. Surprisingly nobody took any notice of four apparent Interpol suspects in a car heavily laden with items of highly suspicious equipment (SW tx, FM tx, radios tape recorders, videos, etc) making for the border at high speed. Even before we reached the republic we could pick up quiet a number of FM stations: Boyneside, Carousel Dundalk, Q102, etc.

Once across the border and radio stations appear all over the place; passed Boyneside's 1332 relay beside the Dublin Road but didn't stop to look closer. Past their main FM relay near Killineer, about 3 miles North of Drogheda, from where most of the station's relays take their signals: want to 'take over' the station? The FM link, which also doubles as the Drogheda tx is on 99MHz. This is picked up and relayed by the MW tx at the Rosnaree Hotel just south of Drogheda as well as the main FM site north of the town. From that site it links on UHF to the tx covering Dublin as well as the MW and FM txs on the border. Enough said. Our first stop was at that station where we were told stories of life in the 'old days' when the station was located on the top floor of an adjacent mill and getting to the studio involved going through a sort of assault course, avoiding the guard dog, getting through several steel doors before climbing through a trap door (pulling the ladder up behind you) and entering the studio. At least nowadays there's only a locked door and a flight of stairs. Because of the size of the building, the studio seemed rather small and basic (typical Irish station), and it was pointed out where the TV tx and equipment for Boyneside TV had been before the station had been closed down.

From Drogheda it was back towards the North for a few miles to the location of our future SW relay, and we spent the rest of the afternoon installing the tx, aerial

etc now used to relay Radios Stella, Linda, Omega etc on 627kHz. It was there that we met Headie Eddie from Radio Rainbow and arranged to drop by the station the following morning.

Sunday September 28th:- Having spent half the night looking for a pub, chipshop and a place to stay we didn't arrive at Eddie's until mid morning. Listening to Rainbow on Shortwave with its 400 watts gives the impression of at least a shedful of tx and a studio to match, preferably with some sort of impressive aerial array on the end. Unfortunately the set up was a bit more basic than that: The first view was of a rather ordinary bungalow, no mast or even trees nearby. A look around at the back reveals the secret behind some of that massive signal; to get over the lack of natural aerial supports Eddie has one end of the dipole fixed to his chimney, while the other is attached - by some nylon rope luckily - to the top of an 18kv electricity pylon. "I have to put it up every week because if I left it the ESB (Electricity Board) would take it down" said Eddie. Rather him than me! The Rainbow studio consists of a disco console on the floor of the bedroom feeding into a large commercial p.a. amplifier. From here a cable ran into the next room to feed the two 813 valves in the modulator of the tx. These feed the main rig through a very large modulation transformer sitting on the floor. The tx consists of a single valve (6BA6?) oscillator, 807 driver and two 813s in the p.a. This fed into the aerial through half a pi-network, the capacitor of which was made of foot square pieces of aluminium nailed about 1" apart with a couple of sheets of glass in between. To tune: just move the two wood blocks with the al. sheets apart until power metre/light bulb in series/wet finger on aerial terminal shows maximum power out then measure distance of plates. Simple!!!!

Next time: we descend on Dublin, home of the superpirates, and discover that you CAN fit a studio in a shoebox, that money DOES buy everything and that playing 'Spot the Tx Aerials' can be difficult in a place where every other building seems to have a Band II aerial upon it.



## JANUARY

On New Years Day Radio Caroline commenced a split programme service during the evening, when at 9pm on 96.3kHz Tom Anderson introduced the first Caroline Overdrive. The station was now able to continue with Hits and Classics on 558, whilst at the same time providing an alternative music service for those who still wanted a return to the Album format, since then Overdrive has gone from strength to strength.

In the early hours of January 31st, the Ross Revenge lost her anchor, and began to drift. Navigational equipment had failed, and a call was made on the CB Radio. The coaster 'Sam Weaver' spotted the ship in the North East Knock of the Thames Estuary. Following this the Sheerness Lifeboat was able to confirm that the Ship was safe.

Rumours continued on a new station Stereo 531. The Daily Mail was convinced it had found the Ship off the Kent Coast- it turned out to be an Oil Tanker.

RADIO NOVA in Ireland tests on Long Wave using the country's allocated, but unused channel. Tests finally ceased when Chris Cary, the station owner decided not to continue with the project. There had already been complaints from the Irish Government.

## MARCH

RADIO NOVA Shareholder Zena Brady applies to have a receiver appointed to Nova Media Services. This is granted on March 19th. At 6.00 pm station Owner Chris Cary closed the station for the final time, pleased that it was not the long running disputes with the NUJ which had made the station close. Later that evening Non Stop Music on 103.1 FM identified as Zoom 103.

Short Wave station RADIO ORION becomes the first seven day a week operation on the band, and has continued ever since.

NETWORK 21 starts as London's first Pirated TV station with a mixture of alternative Drama and Video. The debut was at Midnight on March 21st.

## APRIL

The Communicator Home to the popular Hit Music station Laser 558 was sold on April 16th however it was not until April 21st that the buyers name was revealed. East Anglian Productions of Frinton on Sea had purchased the vessel for £35,000. The plan was to sell the ship to a Mediterranean Group for use as a holiday station.

## JUNE

On June 1st Radio Caroline Engineer Micheal Barrington clocked up one year on board the Ross Revenge, without Shoreleave. The lengthy stay started following an argument with his girlfriend. Eurosiege followed, then the drifting in January until Michael decided he was so near the record he might as well 'Go For it'.

On June 30th the Home Secretary Douglas Hurd Officially announced that the Government was postponing plans for Community Radio in Britain until after the publication of the Green Paper on Broadcasting. Fear of Ethnic Radio groups inciting race riots was suggested as the real reason for the move, the AIRC described the announcement as 'Good News'.

## JULY

During the 'Wogan' Programme on BBC1 July 25th it emerged that Joan and Roy Bates were planning to go into radio once more. From their self proclaimed Republic of Sealand it was planned to open three new radio stations, with the intention of adding to rather than Duplicating the radio services available on the British mainland.

On July 27th Irish Shortwave station Radio Rainbow were able to celebrate their first year on the air. The powerful Irish station has missed few weeks since the launch.

## AUGUST

SUNSHINE RADIO from Ludlow in Shropshire returned to the air on August 24th. Gone however was the community orientated format to the station with music now being the Mainstay of the programmes.

## SEPTEMBER

Monitor Magazine paid tribute to their founder Editor Roland 'Buster' Pearson, with a special gettogether known as Buster's Birthday Party. The Queen's Hotel Westcliff was the venue on September 28th when Free Radio Enthusiasts known and otherwise met and simply talked about their common interest in Radio and their memories of Buster.

On September 26th customs officials removed two bearings from the Driveshaft of the m.v. Communicator after hearing that the ship was preparing to sail.

Adrian Cooke recently met up with Falcon Radio's Tony King and talked about his involvement with the station.

Tony: I've been interested in Free Radio for many years. I'm thirty now and I first got interested when I was eight years old. I used to listen to the Offshore stations of the sixties. That's how I first became involved in that way. I first did a broadcast in 1982 for Radio Nova in Leicestershire. I subsequently went on to do Album programmes for a very successful station in Leicester by the name of Radio King, which was known throughout Britain probably it was one of the longest reigning stations in Leicester at the time, a year and a half every week continuously with no raids. That's how I first really got started into Free Radio broadcasting, I'd done other types of broadcasting before that but I'll leave that for another time perhaps. Then I got involved with Falcon Radio - Peter Moss rang me up!

Adrian: Another friend of a friend?

Tony: I'd never heard of Peter Moss before, not even by his real name! I got this letter from somebody else. He's not so well known now in Free Radio circles but he was in the sixties and seventies, Peter Lenton from Kettering in Northamptonshire. He used to do what Barrie and Ruth do now with Anoraks UK, he still does it to a limited extent. That's how I got involved with Falcon Radio. The idea for Falcon Radio had been around since 1969, believe it or not, but they never had enough people to do it, they had the technicians but no Disc Jockeys. I was the first Bone Fide Disc Jockey so I was put in charge of programming. The thing I wanted to do differently with Falcon Radio was and I know a lot of people don't like it is that most shortwave stations rely on sixties jingles, sixties style, ie talking after every record, not all Shortwave stations but most do there's quite a number of them and we set out to change all that. We do three pieces of music in a row at least, sometimes more and people said 'You can't do it, people won't listen they won't stay tuned long enough'.

Adrian: Do you feel that there's a demand now for less talk on the radio. Obviously in the sixties when pop radio came about the DJ was the person you listened to. Now do you think people primarily want to listen to the music hence the success of Laser and Caroline.

Tony: That's Right. I think more so on FM and Medium Wave people don't want somebody prattling on. The music's more important now. I think people have developed. I like to think they have developed. There is a school of Anorak that won't accept that all Free Radio must sound like the sixties, I don't agree with that, that's why I deliberately programmed Falcon Radio differently. We do all kinds of Music. We do Top 40, Rock, We've got plans for some Jazz later on and we do soul and all kinds of other things, but it's strict, there's three in a row at least and we find that despite what a lot of cynics said we've got overwhelming success, really from week one and we still have success. Our main problem now is the same problem with every station, which is shortwave reception conditions, which we can't do anything about. Adrian: I notice that Falcon Radio has a lot of good Printed material, Are there any particular suppliers of that?

Tony: It's done internally shall we say. I don't want to say too much about that. We've been on the air now as Falcon Radio on Short Wave since February '85, and before that for a few months on Medium Wave, but we had problems finding suitable sites and we got a far better response anyway from the shortwave. We've had several letters and Lx reports, again we get a lot of letters from East Germany and Poland, that seems to be our favourite target area and occasionally one from Italy and Spain. We've even had an unconfirmed reception report from Botswana, but I hasten to add it is unconfirmed.

Adrian: Radio Lelmare a few years back got several reception reports for one day from India.

Tony: It's quite possible particularly with these peculiar conditions. I think that it's very successful on Short Wave, because a lot of people live in areas where Radio Caroline doesn't come in very well or where the Irish Free Radio stations don't come in very well. Short Wave is their only access to alternative radio material. I think in particular a lot of people in Scandinavia, where quite frankly their Radio system is appalling, and I think for them Shortwave is the only medium that they have to hear anything alternative.

Adrian: There very often seems to be Free Radio in clumps, we have a large majority of it in Liverpool and also in London, and until recently in Leicester, although that seems to have died out now, do you think there is any particular reason why it just sticks to these few areas.



Tony: I think its the commitment of the people in those areas. It's not always like that it comes and goes I think. Certainly when the DTI activity increases you certainly see the hardcore and the true people who will do it regardless. I would like to make another point here, slightly sidetracking. One reason I've got a very good reason in doing Free Radio is that I am disabled, I don't broadcast it very often and disabled people get a raw deal in all sorts of Radio with the exception of Free Radio, so that's my other reason for doing it and I am prepared to do whatever it entails to get Free Radio and I mean I am prepared to go the whole way.

Adrian: I believe that the BBC still has a policy where they don't broadcast requests at all for prisoners.

Tony: I mean you can change that to what other category you like it can be prisoners, it can be disabled people certainly most of their local radio stations are totally inaccessible to wheelchairs, and we are doing some programming for disabled people on Falcon which is going to be intergrated with the normal programmes so its not going to stand out as a ghetto type of programming but its going to be intergrated, my wife's going to be doing some of that, who is next to me I hasten to

add, and that's some of our plans for the future. Also may I appeal if anyone has any logs for our Dx programme which is on once a month, a difference with our Dx programmes is that we don't just do Free Radio, we do General shortwave, but we don't do it the same as a lot of other people because we find that a lot of Dx programmes are repetitive, ours is a bit unusual also, we only do it once a month, but it's an hour long.

Adrian: There's a tendency amongst the Irish stations to just read out logs taken from Barrie and Ruth Johnston's Weekly Report. Is that repetitive?

Tony: Yes, I think it's a waste of time with -out being too harsh, because most people who want that have got it. Now I'm not saying we've never used that but if it was a hot story for example when Laser came in, at that time we didn't have any other information really and also for the occasional hot Irish story for example Nova closing, but on the whole I use other sources, I ring people up we use Media Monitor, that's a good magazine that a lot of people don't use, and we use that. We use all kinds of sources to get our information, but I feel that just to read out the Weekly Report is not the best way to do it.

transmitter, together with the aerial and mast with their crane, That's what they are doing here in London, A Crane to remove 'Pirate' aerials, of course then its back to square one.

A Sunday morning station which may broadcast on Medium Wave or Short Wave can also have lots of problems, think about this. You put the aerial up on the Saturday afternoon, you turn up on the Sunday morning to find it has fallen down, or maybe you put the broadcast out standing around a wood in the freezing cold, in rain and snow with a strong wind blowing. Putting the programme tapes on every hour, only to find out that when it comes time to go home, and you take the aerial down that it has become disconnected in the winds the night before and the station hasn't been heard by a single person. I know what its like, it happened to me last Easter I laugh about it now, but at the time it wasn't very funny. These days the aerial goes up on Sunday Morning and everything is double checked. A site station will broadcast from a wood or forest somewhere, The aerial is put up in between two trees, This is done using a catapult, with fishing line wound around an old paint tin with a handle in the middle, This is called a 'firer can', Lead weights and a lot of string. The idea is to fire the lead weight and fishing line over the top of the two trees to be used for the aerial, once the weight has landed, one of the site crew unties the weight, then ties the string to the fishing line, when that has been done, the person holding the firer can winds in the fishing line which pulls the string over the top of the tree to the other side, once this has been done on both trees, the aerial is tied to the two ends of string, then the site crew one at one tree one at the other, pull their ends of string thus pulling the aerial up into the air, then the two ends are tied up. The transmitter is then set up, with its power supply and 12 volt car battery and the cassette player which plays the recorded programmes, its as easy as that. The site crew can then wait around drinking beer (Summer Only) Go for a walk or a drive around, with an Auto reverse cassette player they can leave the equipment for up to two hours without going near it, of course, when it does come time to change the programme tapes, you must be sure the DTI aren't hiding behind a tree or bush ready to jump on you when you change the tapes (Hello Ray!) If they are the best thing to do is run, Don't look back and don't stop, if you can grab some equipment, do so, But like I have always said, The equipment is cheaper than a court appearance, and a fine, its best just to let them take it. If you do get a raid, and you spot them before they spot you, and you can get the equipment

off air and hide it all the better, then you can secretly stick two fingers up at the DTI and feel a lot better for it. So you want to be a radio Pirate? I know I do!

Andy Walker.

## Survey '86

Following the first Free Radio Survey organised by this magazine in Wavelength 7 we have modified the categories slightly. They are as follows;

1. Best Station, Short Wave.
2. Best Station, Medium Wave + FM.
3. Best Audio, Short Wave.
4. Best Programme (All Bands)
5. Best QSL Card.
6. Best Offshore D.J.
7. Best Landbased D.J.
8. Best Magazine.

Those of you who cannot hear the transmissions of the Offshore Stations need not vote in Category 6.

Please vote for 5 nominees in each category in order of merit. For example if you think that Radio Pamela is the best Short Wave station your Top 5 in Category 1 may look something like this;

1. Radio Pamela
2. WFRL
3. Radio Rainbow
4. Westside Radio
5. Radio East Coast Commercial

Remember the above is only an example. Send in your votes to us by January 20th.

to WAVELENGTH, Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk. PE36 5AU.

The results will be published in Wavelength 14 in February.

Liverpool ILR station have suddenly added Vangelis' I'll find my way home to their playlist. Coincidence that Local station Veronica who used it as there theme tune have been off the air?

## So You Want To Be A Radio Pirate

Every Day, Up and Down the country, People tune their radios to Radio stations which have not got a licence to broadcast, these stations are what the media calls "Pirates". But have you ever wondered as you sit at home, or in the car, or maybe whilst listening at work, The Time and Effort it takes to put a 'Pirate Radio Station' On the air. From a 24 hour a day, to a Weekend station, or maybe just a station that comes on the air once a week, usually on a Sunday, There is a lot of effort and time spent in getting the equipment set up.

A station which is on the air 24 hours a day has the most problems. Once the On Air studio has been set up, the engineers have to start work on getting the link transmitter working and tuned into the main receiving part of the transmitter or tx.

The studio is usually a few months away from the main transmitter, for security reasons, if the station has a raid from the DTI, all it loses is the main transmitter, which can cost from £70 to well over a thousand Pounds according to the power it pushes and if it is Stereo or not, of course Stereo would only be used on FM. The link from the studio could be an infra red link,

or a microwave link or even a UHF link. Some of the big stations may use all three, this would mean having relays in between the studio and the main Tx. The DTI would have to work backwards from the main transmitter site to detect the links and find the studio its not an easy job, but it has been said, that they now have new tracking equipment from the USA. They now tell us, that they can find any Radio signal, But that is debatable.

Once everything is set up, the station can go on the air, but after all that hard work The DTI might turn up and remove the transmitter. Also they have tracked some of the multilinks and removed those also, this of course means new equipment has to be made, and installed again, just so that they can turn up again and take the lot, its not easy running a 'Pirate Radio Station' in this day and age.

Think about this. Three or four people might start erecting a new aerial. The work might have to be done in the early hours of the morning, Dark and Cold on a roof, putting up an eighty foot mast with the aerial on top. The engineers set up the transmitter and the station comes on the air in the early morning, then two or three hours later, Eric and Co. (The London DTI) turn up, remove the



# STEVE ESSEX

Adrian: Cooke talks to one of Caroline's Summer DJs, who under the name of Penny James has also worked on the Voice of Peace and South East Sounds.

Adrian: You've come back from the Ross Revenge. First Question, Are you going back?

Steve: I don't really know the answer to that question. I'd like to think that I will do in the near future whether I will or I won't depends if I can find the time inbetween running around doing Discos and things really, that's the basic answer to that question. I'd like to go back at some stage.

Adrian: How did you get involved in the first place?

Steve: I suppose basically I worked with Johnny Lewis a few years ago on the Peace Ship, a few years ago when he was out there - six years ago I've always kept in contact with him and I happened to bump into him in the early part of this year, January, February time and we got talking and that's what happened I got round to sending a tape to them and told them when I could go out there, that's it really. Who you know I suppose.

Adrian: Caroline is very a much of a sort of a Friend of a Friend business. I was speaking to Bruce Purdy earlier in the year and he feels that a lot of what Caroline is are the people with it.

Steve: Yes, that's true it's very much who you know. It seems to be quite a massive circle of people involved and everybody seems to know everybody else that's how it works, generally. It's a good system really because at least everybody knows one another, well they know your name even if they don't know your face sort of like an exclusive club of people I suppose.

Adrian: What's the atmosphere like out there at the moment?

Steve: Well I don't really know about Today!  
Adrian: We know that, we know that - You're here!

Steve: When I was out there it was very good actually, the supply situation was very good plenty of food on board I mean that's the main thing, keep everybody happy. Plenty of Beer to keep certain people happy. The atmosphere was pretty good.

Adrian: Is the GEH really as potent as they make out?

Steve: Um, I suppose it is, I stwered well clear of it, I had a glass of it, just about as much as I could poke up with. It's disgusting. You can quote me on that as well! Its very good stuff if you want to get drunk in half an hour.

Adrian: How's the format coming together at the moment there have been a few problems with naughty people not exactly sticking to it?

Steve: The 558 format? - How's it coming together, well it's a very good format. It works very well for what it is. We're at the mercy of new material obviously. That is the biggest problem, but at the moment the stuff is getting out there very quickly which is good, we're keeping up to date and I think there is evidence that it is having some effect on the charts, Nationally. Personally speaking I think that it is making an effect, which is nice to see, and to hear of course. It is a good format it works very well. A tried and tested idea.

Adrian: There was an incident a few weeks ago when Dave James was doing 'Drivetime' and because the station was only on 21 hours a day, and with seven, Hitplays I suppose he started his programme four days running with the same record.

Steve: Well that is a problem of course of anything with a tight rotation, the same thing used to happen on the Peace Ship an awful lot. It was a very similar format out there when I was out there in those days. It's just one of those things which just happens, really its up to the individual to make sure it doesn't happen, I mean even if you just rotate them yourself amongst your programme, but don't let Peter Phillips hear that. I mean you've got to bend it sometimes otherwise it does sound strange, you seem to be playing the same artist in the same hour. You've got to use your common sense really. I mean as long as you stick to the format 99 percent of the way, I don't see any real problem to it. It's a tight format. The idea is that not everybody listens to the radio all day - It probably happened to me when I was out there, but I don't think it happens that often really. The format is geared for a 24 hour operation, and when you are off the air for three or four hours it does throw the thing out of operation really.

Adrian: You mentioned you were on the Peace Ship. How long ago was that?

Steve: Ah, Back in the good old days of the Peace Ship. Six years ago now, no five years ago

Adrian: Who was out there with you at the time?

Steve: I caught Johnny just at the end of his stint, Stevie Gordon was out there as well and Crispian St. John I was out there all the time with him and various other people, of the top of my head, Jerry Charles, Neil Turnbull, Martin Peters, Phil Holden, there's a name to conjour with, he was out there very briefly. Can't think of any more off the top of my head. They were a good team actually.

Adrian: How does Caroline compare with working on the Peace Ship?

Steve: Ah, Question I knew I'd be asked.

Adrian: This is from the Free Radio Reporter's guide to easy questions, its number 568!

Steve: Its an obvious question because you ask it yourself. When I went out there I mean you compare it yourself. The Ross Revenge is a much more comfortable ship to live on because it's much larger, much more stable, but then again the Peace Ship's got other aspects apart from the weather. The food on the Ross Revenge when I was out there was very good its things like this that you compare. The biggest point is does the thing move about in rough weather, and

the Ross Revenge is much better. It copes with rough weather much better than the Peace Ship which bounces about rather dramatically as I recall. Out of the two ships to live on the Ross Revenge is obviously much easier and better to live on.

Adrian: Do you suffer from Sea sickness at all?

Steve: Not that I know of, Not physically sea sick no.

Adrian: You just get sick of the Sea when you're on there for a long time.

Steve: No I wasn't out there long enough to get sick of it this time. I'm not very good on small boats but I'm alright on Big ones!

## Publications NOW RADIO NEWSLETTER

Neil Frazer on a Free Radio success story.

Several months ago another Radio Publication emerged, early copies left a bit to be desired. NOW RADIO is the name of this little publication and it is getting better every issue.

Radio is poorly covered by the so called Media Papers, Broadcast, one of the best rarely gets past half a page of Radio information, the others are not much better.

Radio needs its own publication badly, and Now Radio is going to go a long way to meet that need.

If you are a dyed in the wool Free Radio fan Now has a few good bits of information for you, Legal Radio is well covered, Community Radio, the lot.

We spoke to the Editor JAY JACKSON and asked him his plans for the magazine, Neil: Was it a Trade Publication or just another Radio Magazine?

Jay: Its a paper for the whole broadcast Industry, The Professional, The Pirate, The Community Radio lobby, Offshore, The lot. The IBA Buy it, the Pirates Buy it. Its for anyone with an interest in Radio. Neil: Being fortnightly you miss out on up to date News, do you plan to go weekly?

Jay: We are aiming to go weekly, maybe in the New Year, rapid delivery is a problem but we can sort that out. The increase in costs must be funded by some advertising, we are investigating that Now.

Neil: How does the magazine stand on matters like Community Stations, Pirate and Offshore stations?

Jay: We are fully behind the deregulation of Radio, Community, call it what you want must come, it should have come years ago.

As to the pirate stations or Offshore Ships we can only report on them as any other paper, but with a bit of insight into what goes on behind the scenes. Neil: Any interesting articles coming up in the future?

Jay: Yes, we have several in various stages of production. One of interest will be the follow up to the Radio London Story, all about WRLI.

I think Now Radio has a good future, good enough to be subject to a takeover by a larger Publisher. My only misgiving is that its success may mean that Jay Jackson is stuck behind a typewriter instead of a microphone.

As a special offer to readers of WAVELENGTH You can obtain a Years' Subscription to NOW RADIO NEWSLETTER for £20 in the United Kingdom, for further details write to;

NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS,  
PO BOX 45  
KETTERING  
NN16 0NW.

NOW RADIO NEWSLINE

Telephone (0536) 51 44 37 at anytime from 2pm Saturday to 9am Monday. You will hear a summary of the latest Radio News available on Saturday Morning.

A Big Thankyou to all those who have helped with WAVELENGTH over 1986.